

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Jenny Grober [jegrober@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 9:33 AM

**To:** Friis, John

**Subject:** Testimony HB 6666 section 5

Hello my name is Jenny Grober. I am fifteen years old and a freshman in the ACES Educational Center for the Arts theatre department. It has become one of the most important aspects in my life in a startlingly short amount of time. So we can ask ourselves: what makes ECA so unique? Our teachers. Our teachers are professional artists who take time out of their lives to educate us in their professions. As a student in the theatre department, all of my teachers are either professional: playwrights, actors, or directors. Our teachers are passionate about their jobs as both educators and artists. They teach us through their own experiences in their areas of expertise. I have never before had a teacher that so inspired me to learn and excited me to go to school. Though their formulas of teaching may not fit the standard model, they work.

We are currently in production for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We spend time in character development and in blocking. We are living this play right now. We spend hours researching at home for our characters. By working through blocking and relationships to other characters, even actors who have a smaller roles in the play have characters managed to bring their characters to life. The results are unreal. Every Character in the play stands out. When blocking, we are always encouraged to offer up our ideas for a scene and to take risks. We are expected to work to the best of our abilities and to support each other fully. The support system that creates is incredible. As a freshman, I never expected the support that the upperclassman gave us. Whether we are on stage or in production, our peers and teachers are always behind us 100 percent.

My home school, Amity Regional High School is an academically superb school. But it cannot ever compare to the experience I am getting from ECA. Our teachers are the ultimate role models for us as young artists. No amount of teaching pedagogy could equal the content knowledge that my teachers have acquired through years of work in the arts.